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## CORRESPONDENCE

**Comments on "The Weather and Circulation of February 1968—Cold and Dry in the East, Warm in the West"****LIVINGSTON LANSING**Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, State University of New York,  
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The statement in Posey's (1968) article that "the lake effect did not appear to the lee of Lake Ontario or Lake Erie" does not appear to be well founded. Boonville, N.Y., which is approximately 40 mi east of Lake Ontario and comes within the airflow of the lake, had a very pronounced lake effect in February 1968.

The Weather Bureau Cooperative Observer's report for this month for Boonville shows a total precipitation of 5.52 in. and 82.6 in. of snow, a record for February since that station began some 20 yr ago. *Climatological Data* for the State of New York for February by the Environmental Data Service (1968) also supports my contention. The station at Bennett Bridge, east of Pulaski, N.Y., which itself is just east of Lake Ontario, reported a total precipitation for February 1968 of 5.89 in. and a total snowfall of 105.5 in. I do not know what the record February snowfall at Bennett Bridge is, but 105.5 in. was near that record—if not the record. Moreover, at the east end of Lake Ontario, Mallory, Oswego, and Pulaski all measured over 4 in. of melted precipitation with Mallory showing a 71-in. snowfall total.

Snowfall totals were not as large at the east end of Lake Erie. This was perhaps due to a rather extensive ice cover on that lake. However, Colden in Erie County reported 2.31 in. of precipitation and 46 in. of snow; whereas Little Valley in southwestern New York, some 40 or so miles east of this lake, reported 3.20 in. of precipitation and 45 in. of snow.

Perhaps Mr. Posey (1968) was not aware of the large snowfall and precipitation amounts on the east end of Lake Ontario when he wrote his report for the *Monthly Weather Review*. My only purpose is an attempt to show that a heavy snowfall fell east of Lake Ontario in February 1968, and to a somewhat lesser extent east of Lake Erie as well as east of Lakes Superior and Michigan.

## REFERENCES

- Environmental Data Service, ESSA, *Climatological Data*, New York, Asheville, N.C., Feb. 1968, pp. 19–35, (see pp. 22–23).  
Posey, J. W., "The Weather and Circulation of February 1968—Cold and Dry in the East, Warm in the West," *Monthly Weather Review*, Vol. 96, No. 5, May 1968, pp. 330–336.

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## Reply

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I wish to thank Mr. Lansing for his comments. He apparently has information that was not available at this office when the article in question was written. Referring to figure 6 of the article describing the February weather, all of the State of New York is shown to have less than normal precipitation.

The data for the above-mentioned figure were taken from preliminary telegraphic reports as indicated in the lower right-hand side of the figure. Also, a second check of the Preliminary Local Climatological Data forms from each of the major Weather Bureau stations in the State of New York (which was originally done by the author before writing the article), revealed that the precipitation at those stations was considerably below normal. In a special attachment to the regular reporting form, the personnel at the Greater Buffalo International Airport stated that "February was cold and blustery and it was the second driest February of record."

Perhaps in my article I should have stated that the "lake effect" to the lee of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie was less than normal. However, more than large amounts of precipitation or snowfall as quoted by Mr. Lansing are necessary to show that the major contributing factor for the precipitation was dry cold air passing over the lakes, which rapidly receives heat and moisture from the lakes and deposits the added moisture in instability showers immediately to the lee of the lakes. Detailed daily or even hourly weather reports would be required from a station before a decision could be made as to whether or not the lake effect was the major cause of the precipitation.

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